At step S4-8, the customer processing apparatus receives the payment request, and at step S4-10 sends the requested payment details.

5   At step S4-12, payment controller 36 in processing apparatus 6 receives the payment details sent by the customer processing apparatus and checks the details, for example to confirm the credit card payment with an authorisation agency or to check whether the customer's account is in credit.

It is determined at S4-12 that a satisfactory payment has been made, then, at step S4-14, mat data generator 38 requests data from the customer processing apparatus defining the type of printer 18 or display panel 19 which is to print or display the photographic mat, and also data defining the maximum width in any direction of the subject object to be placed on the photographic mat.

20   At step S4-16, the customer processing apparatus receives the request for printer/display details and object size, and at step S4-18, sends the requested details to the processing apparatus 6.

25   At step S4-20, mat data generator 38 selects at random

a calibration pattern for the photographic mat from
patterns prestored in calibration pattern store 37, and
stores data in memory 32 defining which pattern has been
selected.

In this embodiment, the features on the photographic mat
are arranged around a blank central area (160 in Figure
2) in which the subject object is to be placed. Mat data
generator 38 selects the diameter of the central blank
area to be larger than the maximum width of the object
defined in the data received from the customer processing
apparatus. In this way, the features on the photographic
mat are positioned so that they will be visible when the
subject object is placed on the mat.

At step S4-22, mat data generator 38 generates a command
file for use by the customer processing apparatus to
cause printer 18 to print a photographic mat having the
pattern selected at step S4-20, or for use by processing
apparatus 4 to cause display panel 19 to display a
photographic mat with the pattern selected at step S4-
20. More particularly, mat data generator 38 generates
the command file in dependence upon the type of printer
or display defined in the details received from the
customer apparatus, so that the instructions in the

command file are suitable for enabling the customer
apparatus to control the printer or display panel
connected to the customer processing apparatus.   In
addition, in this embodiment, at step S4-22, mat data
generator 38 also generates instructions defining how the
subject object should be aligned with the pattern on the
photographic mat so that the desired part of the subject
object appears in the first image each time the
subsequently generated 3D computer model is viewed. More
particularly, mat data generator 38 generates
instructions telling the user to align the part of the
subject object which is to appear in each first image so
that it faces the front marker 170 on photographic mat
24.

At step S4-24, the command file and alignment
instructions generated at step S4-22 are sent from
processing apparatus 6 to the customer processing
apparatus.

At step 4-26, the customer processing apparatus stores
the received command file and alignment instructions sent
from the processing apparatus 6, and at step S4-28, the
customer processing apparatus uses the command file to
print a photographic mat 24 using printer 18 or to